sunsets, then it has been able to alter the state of the atmosphere all round the world. The effect could not be caused by volcanic dust, because the sunsets have continued such a length of time, and the dust will have been precipitated long ago. Hydrogen would not produce anything like a red sunset. I have only to say, in the first place, that the sunsets are not very remarkable. I have seen far more wonderful ones in other parts of the world, and no notice has been taken of them. In the Mediterranean I have seen a red sky three hours after sunset; and we all know what grand sights are sometimes witnessed in the tropics. There is nothing unusual in the sunsets, except perhaps that they are a little uncommon in these latitudes, and have lasted a little longer than usual. What is rather singular is that above the yellowish or deep orange tinge there has been a distinct purple region. That is not very often seen. Still it is explained by the fact that all these beautiful sights morning and evening are due entirely to the prevalence of vapour in the higher regions of the atmosphere. Indeed, any day during the occurrence of these red sunsets it has been possible by careful examination with an opera glass to see that the atmosphere was not quite clear of cloud. The trace of a slight filmy cloud could just be seen, and there has evidently been vapour high up in the atmosphere for a considerable time past; in fact it could always be seen on the clearest day. I believe therefore that the sunsets are simply due to the presence of vapour in an unusual quantity, and for an unusual length of time for this season of the year. I do not believe the volcano has anything whatever to do with the phenomena. The pumice-stone no doubt came from the Straits of Sunda, but I do not think the red sunsets did. The earthquake and the sunsets happening to occur about the same time, people have connected them.

Art. XXI.—*The First Discoverers of the New Hebrides.*

By Mr. A. Sutherland, M.A.

[Read 15th November, 1883.]